

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

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TAGS: SOPN, PINT, VS

SUBJECT: EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR FREE VIET-NAM

REF: SAIGON 3059

1. FULL PAGE ADVERTISEMENT SPONSORED BY EMERGENCY COMMITTEE APPEARED WASHINGTON POST, MARCH 21. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY, FULL TEXT TO BE POUCHED TODAY. LETTER SPONSORED BY "REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS, CONSERVATIVES AND LIBERALS" CALLS UPON CONGRESS AND ALL AMERICANS TO "WEIGH WITH A CAREFUL HAND AND OPEN MIND THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISIONS THEY WILL SOON BE CALLED UPON TO MAKE" CONCERNING AID FOR SOUTH VIET-NAM.

2. LETTER STRESSES THAT CUTOFF OR REFUSAL TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE AID TO SOUTH VIET-NAM WILL HAVE SERIOUS IMPACT ON U.S. ALLIANCES AND WILL "UNDERMINE AMERICA. SECURITY BY DEMONSTRATING TO OUR ALLIES AND DEPENDENTS THAT WE DO NOT LIVE UP TO OUR PLEDGES." SUCH LACK OF SUPPORT FOR VIET-NAM "IS BOUND TO BE PERCEIVED AS A PRODUCT OF WEAKNESS

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AND LACK OF RESOLVE THUS PLAYING INTO THE HANDS OF

MORE HAWKISH ELEMENTS IN BOTH MOSCOW AND PEKING."

3. ADVERT STATES LACK OF SUPPORT FOR VIET-NAM WOULD "SERIOUSLY UNDERCUT OUR ABILITY TO CONDUCT A VIABLE FOREIGN POLICY THAT WILL PREVENT THE OUTBREAK OF WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND ELSEWHERE." THERE IS REAL ISSUE ALSO OF U.S. COMMITMENT TO LIVE UP TO SOLEMN ASSURANCES AND PLEDGES GIVEN TO FRIENDS AND ALLIES. THE COMMITMENT TO CONTINUE AID TO SVN WAS MADE AT TIME OF PARIS PEACE AGREEMENTS. SOME CONGRESSMEN SUPPORT REDUCTION U.S. ASSISTANCE ON GROUNDS IT WOULD HELP REDUCE LEVEL OF COMBAT AND WOULD LEAD TO MORE MEANINGFUL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES. "IN FACT, PRECISELY THE OPPOSITE HAS HAPPENED."

4. "THERE HAS BEEN A TENDENCY IN SOME QUARTERS TO BLAME SAIGON REVERSES ON THE LACK OF A WILL TO FIGHT...THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE ARMY HAS FOUGHT HEROICALLY IN SITUATION AFTER SITUATION. THERE HAVE BEEN FEW EASY SURRENDERS AND NO SIGNIFICANT DESERTIONS TO THE OTHER SIDE." MASSIVE INFILTRATION BY NORTH VIETNAMESE COUPLED WITH LIMITATIONS ON GVN SUPPLIES HAS RESULTED IN GREATER APPARENT SUCCESS FOR COMMUNIST SIDE.

5. IN OPPOSITION TO THOSE SAYING VIET-NAM COMMITMENT IS UNENDING LETTER POINTS OUT: THERE IS NOW NO AMERICAN COMBAT INVOLVEMENT IN VIET-NAM AND ALL BEING REQUESTED IS AID TO HELP THAT COUNTRY SURVIVE AS NON-COMMUNIST NATION. IN ADDITION, THERE IS A WILL TO FIGHT IN SOUTH VIET-NAM AND "GIVEN ADEQUATE SUPPORT THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE CAN WIN. THERE IS ALSO EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT, IF THEY ARE GIVEN THE NECESSARY SUPPORT," (AND ACHIEVE SUCCESSFUL DEVELOPMENT OF RESOURCES SUCH AS OFFSHORE OIL) "THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE CAN BE LARGELY SELF-SUFFICIENT WITHIN A FEW YEARS."

6. U.S. ACTIONS IN SOUTH VIET-NAM ARE LINKED TO MIDDLE EAST PEACE. FAILURE IN VIET-NAM WOULD "UNDERMINE OUR ABILITY TO USE OUR DIPLOMACY AS A PROTECTIVE SHIELD FOR OUR NATIONAL SECURITY AND AS A GUARANTOR OF THE PEACE
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IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD." CITING CONCESSIONS NEEDED IN THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT, "ISRAEL WOULD HAVE TO HAVE A FIRM AMERICAN ASSURANCE AGAINST THE POSSIBILITY OF RENEWED ARAB ATTACK. AND NO ISRAELI LEADER IN HIS RIGHT MIND WOULD BE WILLING TO STAKE ISRAEL'S SURVIVAL ON SUCH AN ASSURANCE, IF CONGRESS NOW DEMONSTRATED, IN THE CASE OF VIET-NAM, THAT IT CAN, AT ITS OWN WHIMSY, COMPLETELY NULLIFY A SOLEMN ASSURANCE OF ASSISTANCE TO

AN ALLY, GIVEN ONLY TWO YEARS AGO."

7. REFERRING TO SVN "CORRUPTION," STATEMENT AGREES THERE

IS GREATER CORRUPTION THAN OUGHT TO BE AND MORE SHOULD
BE DONE TO ELIMINATE IT. HOWEVER, IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE
CONGRESS "WOULD DELIBERATELY CONDEMN 19,000,000 VIETNAMESE
TO COMMUNIST SUBJUGATION SIMPLY BECAUSE THE DEGREE OF
CORRUPTION IN THAT COUNTRY EXCEEDS THAT TO WHICH WE ARE
ACCUSTOMED IN OUR OWN COUNTRY."

8. ON A POSSIBLE BLOODBATH AFTER A COMMUNIST VICTORY
AUTHORS CITE PROF. P.J. HONEY WHO PREDICTED THAT "ON THE
BASIS OF PAST COMMUNIST DEEDS, AND GIVEN THE SIZE OF
SOUTH VIETNAMESE POPULATION, THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF THOSE
TO BE BUTCHERED WILL EXCEED ONE MILLION AND COULD RISE
TO SEVERAL TIMES THAT FIGURE." DOUGLAS PIKE IS ALSO
QUOTED: "THE COMMUNISTS IN VIET-NAM WOULD CREATE A
SILENCE. THE WORLD WOULD CALL IT PEACE."

9. SPONSORS "APPEAL TO ALL MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO KEEP
THESE FACTS AND THESE CONSIDERATIONS IN MIND. SO LONG
AS WE DENY ASSISTANCE IT IS A FOREGONE CERTAINTY THAT THE
COMMUNISTS WILL PERSIST IN THEIR REFUSAL TO NEGOTIATE
AND TO PURSUE THE GOAL OF OUTRIGHT MILITARY CONQUEST.

ONLY IF WE ARE PREPARED TO GIVE OUR SOUTHEAST ASIAN
ALLIES THE MEANS TO RESIST, CAN THERE BE SOME HOPE OF
PERSUADING CHINA AND THE SOVIET UNION TO SCALE DOWN THE
ASSISTANCE TO HANOI TO THE INTEREST OF DETENTE, AND OF
PERSUADING HANOI TO RETURN TO NEGOTIATIONS WITHIN THE
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FRAMEWORK OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT."

10. COMMITTEE SPONSORS INCLUDE AMONG OTHERS CO-CHAIRMAN,
DR. FRANK TRAGER, DIRECTOR N.Y.U. GRAD SCHOOL OF PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATION AND JOHN CHAMBERLAIN, SYNDICATED COLUMNIST;
WILLIAM F. BUCKLEY, JR.; RABBI MARCEL BLITZ; HONORABLE
ELBRIDGE DURBROW; JAMES J. KILPATRICK, COLUMNIST;
HONORABLE CLARE BOOTH LUCE; PAUL NITZE, FORMER SECRETARY
OF THE NAVY; DR. ROBERT SCALAPINO AND DR. PAUL SEABURY,
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA; AND ADMIRAL E.R. ZUMWALT, USN
(RET). KISSINGER

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